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UN WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN, 1990  
BACKGROUND GUIDE  
TRITONMUN XXVII – APRIL 27-28<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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## HEAD CHAIR LETTER

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Esteemed Delegates,

To debate is to learn. For this very fact, I am elated to have the privilege of chairing a committee that can be felt and cherished despite its arrival in the 1990s. Starting from high school, I have enjoyed pursuing opportunities to uplift the children in my San Diego community. This includes serving on my community's Teen Council, coordinating events for hundreds of children throughout the year, and beginning my own 501(c)3 nonprofit, connecting teachers with students remotely, across the country, for customized lesson plans during Covid. Thus, I look forward to leading important conversations during the conference weekend, developing further solutions to guarantee that our future generations can thrive and create their own impact.

I am currently in my third undergraduate year at UCSD; I am a BA/MPP student majoring in economics, minoring in data science, and will be pursuing my Master's in Public Policy in 2025. Aside from classes, I have been a part of MUN for two years, and have attended three conferences as a part of the school's travel team. Alongside this, I am in my tenth year of competitive debate, and particularly appreciate fluid, confident speakers during moderated caucuses. I have the opportunity to recognize and benefit youth everyday through my job for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, alongside my nonprofit, and will always look ahead towards what our future holds.

As we indulge ourselves in policy-related speeches and funny resolution paper acronyms, it is important to remember the value our ideas hold. As the next generation of leaders, the solutions you create and conclusions you derive will only serve as fuel outside our committee's room.

Best,

Mehri Sadri

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## POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

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### TRITONMUN POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due on **April 19, 2024 at 11:59pm.**
  - Requests for extensions must be sent by the advisor to TritonMUN by **April 12, 2024.**
- Position Papers must be submitted to the **Google Form** linked here:  
<https://forms.gle/kBYPRmDpbDSt69Ys7>
- Format
  - For committees with one topic there should be two pages for the topic with an additional page for citations, for a total of 3 pages.
  - Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures.
  - At the top of each paper, include your country/person, name, committee, and topic.
  - Required\* Sections: Each of these sections should be clearly labeled
    - Background
    - Past Actions by the Committee (if applicable)
    - Position of your Country/Person
    - Possible Solutions

\*Some committees may ask for different formatting or an alternative to a position paper altogether, this will be clearly noted in the background guide for that committee

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

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- 1) **Technology policy:** technology may only be used during unmoderated caucuses. This applies to building any working papers and draft resolutions. Laptops and phones must be closed and put away at all other times, unless otherwise stated. The only type of formal communication allowed during moderated caucuses is through note passing
- 2) You may add your name to the list of speakers by passing up a sticky note to the chair
- 3) Delegates must express courtesy of fellow delegates during discussion in moderated and unmoderated caucuses
- 4) Resolutions need a two-thirds majority to be passed, after merging
  - *Point of Inquiry:* To ask the chair a question about rules or procedure
  - *Point of Order:* To ask the chair about a rule being violated or conflicted
  - *Point of Personal Privilege:* For any needs outside the conference

# REWRITING THE DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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## TOPIC A: TACKLING GLOBAL CHILD MORTALITY RATES WITH FOOD & HEALTHCARE

Topic A, decreasing child mortality rates with food & healthcare, will allow delegates to sift through challenges related to essential needs such as medical attention, adequate food, clean water, and more, in order to guarantee a better future for every child.

Child hunger and accessibility to medicine varies globally as a result of political turmoil, economic conditions, and lack of resources. Resources most of us in the first-world would consider ‘basic’ such as food, water, and adequate medicine, are inaccessible for millions of children across the world. More specifically, there is a growing global concern about child mortality rates due to preventable causes such as malnutrition, lack of access to clean water, and inadequate healthcare. Child mortality rates, often measured as the “under-5 mortality rates,” can give insight into a country’s conditions and needs with healthcare and food. In other words, this rate can give insight into the overall well being of a society, as children are the most vulnerable members of our community.

More specifically, during the 1980s, economic crises led to the devaluation of currencies especially in countries within Africa and Latin America. In 1984, at least 5 million children worldwide, largely those below a year old, died as a result of malnutrition and bowel-related diseases due to poor sanitary conditions. In countries such as Chad and Mozambique, the infant mortality rate was measured to be every 200 out of 1000 births, at their highest. Other nations, such as Costa Rica, also experienced acute malnutrition during this time period, along with other ailments such as life-threatening vitamin deficiencies. Over the last couple of decades, into the 21st century, the countries that have suffered from the greatest holistic hunger risk include Afghanistan, Mali, Sudan, Syria, and Haiti, with children largely affected.

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The United Nations' involvement in protecting otherwise basic human rights for children began in 1959, in which the General Assembly fostered the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which outlines protection within obtaining nutrition, adequate healthcare, and shelter, which was adopted unanimously by all 78 member states at the time. Despite its widespread support, countries continue to lack basic healthcare and food needs for the most vulnerable population. Later on, in 1981, *The State of the World's Children* was published by UNICEF, which focuses on political commitment across countries to mitigate the health inadequacy related to poverty by the 21st century.

Children who built our next generation deserve just as much advocacy for these commodities as adults, thus leading to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of a Child, published in 1989, which explicitly acknowledged that every child should be treated as a deserved being with innate rights and liberties. The CRC is considered a landmark document and is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. This treaty upheld 54 articles related to the non-discrimination of children regardless of sex or ethnicity, the right to survival, health, and education, as well as protection against neglect and armed conflicts. Today, since being opened for signature on November 20th, 1989, the CRC has been ratified by 195 different countries, and is one of the most widely ratified treaties by the United Nations.

The 1990 World Summit, occurring on September 6th & 7th, was held nearly a year after this, which provided a further action plan to combat hardships faced by children. The United Nations, through their children agency, UNICEF, came together with the intention of bringing attention to the thousands of children who were dying each day from lack of food, shelter, or basic healthcare, directly acknowledging that the millions of children who are refugees of war and conflict are disproportionately affected. Such international efforts had a transformative effect on the quality of life in children around the world, especially the Americas.

As mentioned, the United Nations General Assembly brought forth a declaration, formulating demands related to the health and protection of children. The paper was split into sections, acknowledging the challenge related to child suffering, the opportunity countries have to fix it while coming together, and the tasks involved in such a reversal. One of the first words in the "tasks" section is 'nutrition,' highlighting the importance it held in summit rhetoric. Infant child mortality was especially bolstered in the first clause, as the 1990 statistics were rendered

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“unacceptable,” and necessary for reform. The Declaration’s plan of action calls for a guarantee of basic, affordable healthcare in the form of mediums such as vaccines, in which millions of deaths can be prevented from. Additionally, breastfeeding and promoting a healthy environment for mothers were listed as remedies towards tackling the then-high infant mortality rate and then-historically low birth rates.

Although child mortality rates have declined over the last thirty years, it is important to acknowledge that such basic principles in the framework set a guarantee to protect each and every child – “to give every child a better future.”



## TOPIC B: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Topic B, addressing childhood education and development, will allow delegates to explore the challenges that come with providing proper education and developmental tools to children living in countries where they may not have access to them, due to extraneous factors such as war, poverty, famine or political instability.

Studies show that early childhood education is necessary for proper development, and that “in the first few years of life, more than one million neural connections are formed each second – a pace never repeated again.” (Early Childhood Development, UNICEF). The ability for children to access education is even classified as a fundamental human right by the UN in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages.” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26).

However, studies by the United Nations have found that nearly 78 million children do not attend school at all, and that a full 222 million children experience “a blighted education.” (78 million children don’t go to school at all, warns UN chief in call for action). There are numerous factors contributing to this statistics, such as climate crises, forced marriages, child labour, governmental bans on education, and human trafficking.

In 2021, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in a violent coup, and created several restrictions on women’s education. In 2021, there were approximately 4,000,000 girls attending 1st through 12th grade classes, but the Taliban has worked to abolish women’s role in education. This has had severe implications for girls in Afghanistan, many report psychological damages, and even more have turned to drugs, fueling a growing problem in Afghanistan. This is just one example of how the rights of millions of children to receive a proper education are being violated.

Similar to mentioning basic proposals on protecting children’s health and hunger, the United Nations’ Declaration written as a result of the 1990 Summit explicitly mentioned education as an important factor towards achieving committee goals. More specifically, it is highlighted in the “tasks” section that “over 100 million children are without basic schooling,” a

number that has fortunately improved 30 years later, but is still insufficient for guaranteeing a sufficient future for every child as a future member of the world community. The Declaration further highlights the need for every child to find their “identity” in a nurturing environment, as the next steps foster a desire to expand on unique partnerships, while seeking the support of the United Nations system and upholding their Plan of Action. The enhancement of status to women, especially mothers, was fortified as a way of creating generational prosperity, as it would not only assist with infant mortality rates, but also with the protection of the female from infancy. Holistically, the plan of action for promoting sustainable development and equal educational opportunities was acknowledged to require national and international cooperation between countries. More specifically, the declaration requested for national plans to be administered by the end of 1991, crediting each country’s different position and needs with child-related protection. Additionally, the declaration urged for local, grassroots involvement and communication between government agencies, NGOs, cultural, religious, and business institutions.

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## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS DURING RESEARCH

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- How can member nations help one another when addressing reform?
  - How are current political alignments affecting children's nutrition and health?
  - How can there be a two-pronged approach to tackling malnutrition and health at once?
  - Is international aid necessary? Or should countries promote self-sustainability?
  - What changed between then and now (between 1990 and 2024)?
  - How will protecting children from arms conflict be addressed when drafting policy solutions?
  - How can economic growth be sustained during potential "social mobilization," for countries when enacting the committee's Plan of Action?
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